



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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CHANGES IN HUNT REGULATIONS PROPOSED FOR SELECTED NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published a proposed rulemaking outlining changes in the regulations governing hunt programs on nearly 70 national wildlife refuges. The proposal, published in the June 4, 1985, Federal Register, concerns the migratory game bird, upland game, and big game hunt programs conducted on refuges.

Each year, refuge hunt programs are reviewed to determine whether they need revision because of changing environmental conditions, State and federal regulations, and other factors affecting wildlife populations and habitats. Under terms of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act and the Refuge Recreation Act, the Secretary of the Interior may allow hunting and fishing on refuge lands so long as these uses are compatible with the major purposes for which the refuge was established.

Last year all regulations governing hunts on the various refuges were made a part of the Code of Federal Regulations. This action was announced in the Federal Register on September 19, 1984. In that Federal Register notice the Service announced it would review refuge hunt regulations annually and make changes when necessary. Prior to that, the regulations for each refuge hunt program had to be published in the Federal Register each year. Annual publication proved costly and often led to delays in issuance of the regulations.

The hunting regulation changes contained in the current proposal represent minor adjustments in existing hunting programs. Those wishing to comment on the proposed rulemaking should address their comments to: Associate Director--Wildlife Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 18th & C Streets, N.W., Room 3252, Washington, D.C. 20240. Comments must be received on or before July 5, 1985.

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